



COVID-19: Cleaning and Disinfectant Safety & Approved Disinfectants

Updated April 18, 2020

These recommendations are based on what is currently known about the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and will be updated as needed and as additional information becomes available.

Intended audience: Individuals, non-healthcare businesses and non-healthcare City Agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Safety:

- S1. Use the safety equipment specified on the product label and Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
- S2. Always wear gloves when cleaning and disinfecting. Disposable gloves are preferred; discard gloves after each cleaning. Rinse off and dry the outside of reusable gloves. Wash your hands immediately after you remove your gloves.
- S3. Wear eye protection (goggles, face shield, or safety glasses) if spraying cleaning chemicals above shoulder height or if there's a splash or splatter hazard.
- S4. Wear a long sleeve shirt, or other garment that protects your arms.
- S5. Make sure there is good ventilation during the use of the product when cleaning. Open available windows or doors to the outside.
- S6. For concentrated products requiring dilution, do not use more of the product than is specified on the label. Using more product does not improve cleaning and can create hazards for you and others in the area.
- S7. Do not use alcohol for cleaning, it is a fire hazard.

General Information:

- G1. If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- G2. Follow label instructions for safe use. Pay particular attention to the contact time required for a disinfectant to work, some products take as long as 10 minutes.

Approved Disinfectants:

- D1. If available, use disinfectants with a US EPA "Emerging Viral Pathogen" (EVP) approval ("claim").
 - A partial list of products with this approval can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>. Another list can be found at <https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>
 - Product manufacturers frequently list products with the EVP approval on their websites.
 - Manufacturer representatives can also identify if products have the EVP approval.
- D2. If EVP approved disinfectants aren't available use a dilute chlorine bleach solution made up of:
 - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water **or**
 - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

Measure bleach used; do not "eyeball estimate" or free-pour. Overconcentrated bleach solutions can cause breathing irritation, even more so for people with coughs or respiratory tract illnesses.

This solution must be kept on surfaces for at least one minute in order to be effective.

RESOURCES

CDC: Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>